Uga-uga? No, big toe. To make sure Tarzan gets the point Jane brought an electronic interpreter to the jungle. This test reveals who's the best translator.

You must know this

Test telegram

- **For comparison: eight translation programs between 19.95 and 159.00 euro**
- **No program is "good".**

Not everyone can read and speak English. Some don't understand it at all. Imagine that you suddenly ran into an incredibly interesting English internet resource, or bought a device with an English operating manual. Suppose you want to translate a pop-song? Is it necessary to purchase a VHS-course? Sure, it must be helpful especially combined with software support package. COMPUTERBILD has tested eight programs.

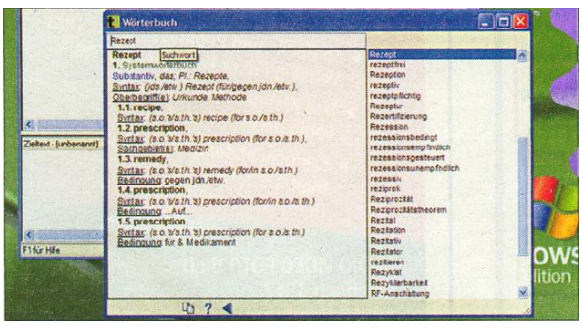
Translation programs guarantee…

"Download your text, type or copy it and just click "Translate" button – that's it!" According to the developers' words all e-mails, internet pages and other English texts can be translated at a moment's notice: "comprehensive translation – and no prior knowledge required."

What should a translation program "know"?

Promotion materials are posted everywhere, "boundless opportunities guaranteed" as stated on the colorful packages. But don't expect language perfection from a 100 euro translation program, it always lacks human linguistic flair.

However software should at least be able to make a comprehensive translation of simple sentences into German. And it also should be capable of conveying the idea of more complex structures in order to give its user a general notion of the text content.



Translation programs' do's

Translation is only partially correct. As results of the testing show the functionality of the programs differs distinctly from the description given by the software manufacturers in the promotion materials. Thus none of the programs has shown good translation results. Motto: the longer the worse. Some texts used as testing material were no more intelligible after processing. For very short and simple sentences it worked only partially: both from German into English and from English into German. Translation results could be improved a little bit using certain small tricks.

Translation programs' don'ts

Programs have no feeling of language. What is clear and obvious to a child – is absolutely unfamiliar to a machine (puns or tongue-twisters). Besides machines can only translate concepts and arrange them in a certain order. They are not able to communicate semantic links between words. Spoken language or polysemantic notions are a matter of a particular difficulty. Let me give just a simple example: "Tom is blue" should be translated into German as "Tom ist traurig" and not as "Tom ist blau". But software

can not determine which is correct.
So please don't trust the translation results! Want to apply for a job abroad? Make sure you have an English native speaker check the translation of your application!

How it works

There are two operation principles:

- Word by word translation – each word of the original text is substituted by a corresponding word of the "target language". Programs using this method translate single words as well as whole texts. In fact such translation is not better than one made with a dictionary.
- Sentence by sentence translation is distinctly more complex and brings better results. Programs implementing this technique analyze sentence structure of the original text before proceeding to translation task. Only then single words are translated into the target language. And ultimately - final check of the sentence structure and grammar in the target language is performed. Programs of this type are better for translating entire texts. Development of such software products costs more and therefore they are more expensive. But such programs normally enable translation in two directions. All programs tested here implement sentence-by-sentence technique.

Maintenance of translation software

Most of the programs function in the following way: user enters or copies text (for example, content of a web-page) in translation window and clicks the "Translation" button. The result is displayed in the target window. This window allows performing further text processing. This way user may always view both original and target text.
In order to translate messages, book pages or other documents (ex. user manual) these must first be scanned **(01)** and processed by a text recognition program (for example, "Omnipage Pro 14", test volume 8/2004).

Are there translation programs for all languages?

Basically – yes. Sure, the biggest variety is intended for English, French and Spanish-speaking countries. The range of programs destined for their European neighbors is somewhat narrower. The countries of the Baltic area get only few offers. For Asia and Africa it works only with an intermediate step: foreign language is translated into English and then into German. Though, in this case results may be somewhat confusing.

Can I get a translation program for free?

Yes. It is hardly possible to download a complete program free of charge. But some search engines offer so called "Language tools". These tools enable translation of internet pages or let the user enter his/her own text to be translated upon a mouse click. Quality of the result? Venturesome and grotesque. Google language tool has converted "Das ist aber schoen, Sie kennen zu lernen" into a mysterious and odd formation - "That is to be learned however beautifully you", which turns out to be absolute nonsense.

Can programs translate internet pages?

Most of them – yes. Only one of the tested programs was not capable of translating web-pages directly. First pages had to be saved on a hard disk. And what finally came out was completely unsuitable.

Can I learn a language using a translation program?

Strictly speaking the answer is – no. You will definitely learn something. Many programs have extensive dictionaries, which in some cases may be supplemented with user-own expressions. This way one learns some certain words. And it is quite clear that regular usage of a translation program is a good way to practice language skills, although basic language level is a must. After all results need to be controlled anyway because there are always some translation problems remaining.

Conclusion:

the test brings back to reality. Even when a customer is ready to give up a considerable amount of money, translation programs can hardly offer more than some additional help.

However in some cases they are enough to provide general understanding of the source text. Translations made by the test winner – "Promt Office", although the best among its competitors could be rated only as "satisfactory". There were no programs with "good" translation results.

Euro-Uebersetzer - the test winner in the price/effectiveness category (note "4") could have made it, if it wasn't for the web-page translation. It offered quite comprehensive translation for as little as 19,95 euro.

What is ...

01 Scanner

Scanner is a device for converting images and documents into digital form. After that the files can be saved, edited and printed. The conversion process is called scanning.

02 Source code

Each web-page consists of many elements: the text which is displayed and special commands indicating for example the type size and text color. All elements are saved in a certain format called source code. An Internet browser reads the source code and displays the page accordingly.

03 Formatting

Formatting describes the appearance of the text in an editing program. This refers to the data

Test results

Operation/ Usability

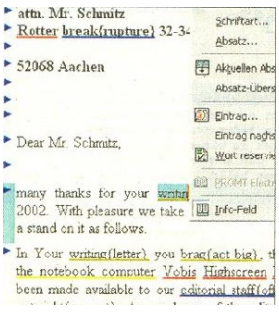
"Personal translator 2004 Office" is the best choice for simple and fast translation. "Promt" programs stand out for an amazing amount of uncommon program symbols and some functions are too complex to operate with. For example, each time loading a text-file in txt-format program requested a confirmation that it is indeed a text-file. There were some other versions of the program ("Translate", "Translate plus") with more convenient but mostly limited dictionary functions: such dictionaries could not be supplemented or changed. Fortunately: all test candidates support direct translation of downloaded text upon a mouse click.

Translation functions

None of the tested programs could be rated higher than "satisfactory". In all cases further (sometimes intense) text processing was required. But "@Promt Office" was a prize-winner in this nomination. The only point it got seriously stuck upon was a Peter Gabriel song. For example: "Es gibt Sicherhiet in Zahlen {Nummern}, Wenn Sie lernen {erfahren}sich teilen, Wie wir kann, darin sien" – no trace of a lyrical touch left!

The most moderately priced program "Euro-Uebersetzer" amazed the testers with acceptable quality of translation, but couldn't cope with translation of Internet pages: first they had to be saved on the hard disk and still the program attempted to translate not only the text but also the source code (**02**) of the webpage.

"Translate" and "Translate Plus" ended up to be outsiders of the quality test, translations delivered by these programs were sometimes completely inapplicable. What would have become out of the USA if the Declaration of Independence if it had contained a following statement: "…das Recht des Volks ist, sich zu ändern oder es abzuschaffen"?



Dictionary

The number of dictionary articles varied from 190 000 in "Euro-Ubersetzer" to a little less than 800 000 in "@Promt Office". Surprisingly the dictionary size had almost no relation to the translation quality. The option of extending dictionaries (ex. adding technical terms) was not supported in all the programs under 99 euro.

Disadvantage:phonetic transcription was available in none of the tested programs. Not a glimmer of hope to find out how a certain word is pronounced. Exceptions: both "Promt" programs – the user may have the system "pronounce" separate words. Don't pay much attention to the accent of the "automatic-interpreter".

Text processing functions

Almost all programs showed at least "satisfactory" results in this category. The only exception was inexpensive "Euro-Uebersetzer". This program could not determine the original language or translate internet pages directly.

In addition it couldn't be integrated in other programs (ex. Word).

Excellent: almost all tested software solutions were able to retain initial text formatting, for example the type size and image position. Several exceptions: in a sample which contained not just simple text "Promt Progress" has brought all fragments into a complete disorder.

My opinion

Frank Badenius Editor, Software

Being a Beatles fan I was perplexed to learn that a line from classical "Penny lane" could be translated as "Haltestelle und Mitspracherecht Hallo". Frankly speaking, those not possessing a certain linguistic competence in the source language and fully trusting the translation program should be prepared to face such an unpleasant surprise. And still if the translation accuracy standards are not too high and the user only wants to get a general meaning of the text, then such software might be useful.

concerning font type, size and font style (normal, bold or italic) as well as to the color, alignment (left, right, justified) and line spacing.

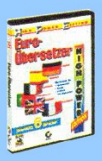
04 PDF

Texts, graphics and images can be saved in special programs as pdf-files ("Portable Document Format"). Advantages: such files can be viewed on any computer using "Adobe Reader" and there is no need to install the program they were originally created in.

05 Drag & Drop

"Drag & Drop" (in German "ziehen und ablegen") describes the technique which allows to pick and move an icon representing a program or a file (while keeping the button of your mouse pushed). This is done in order to start some operation, for example, to copy a file.

Translation examples of the test winners

Original text	Correct translation	Jourist/Promt Office 2004	 Sybex/Euro-Uebersetzer	Google Online translation: google.de
Quotation from Albert Einstein				
"You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat." Albert Einstein, when asked to describe radio.	"Sehen Sie, die Telegraf ist eine Art sehr, sehr langer Katze. Man zieht in New York an ihrem Schwanz, und sie miaut in Los Angeles. Verstehen Sie das? Und Funk funktioniert auf genau dieselbe Weise: Hier versendet man Signale, dort werden sie empfangen. Der einzige Unterschied ist, dass es keine Katze gibt." Albert Einstein, als er gebeten wurde, Funk zu beschreiben.	„Sie sehen, Leitungstelegraf ist ein Art sehr, sehr lange Katze. Sie ziehen seinen Schwanz in New York, und sein Kopf (Haupt) ist meowing im Los Angeles. Verstehen Sie das? Und Radio bedient (betätigt) genau denselben Weg: Sie senden Signale (Zeichen) hier, sie erhalten (emfangen) sei dort." Der einzige Unterschied ist, dass es keine Katze gibt. Albert Einstein, wenn gebeten Radio zu beschreiben.	„Sehen Sie, Draht-Telegraf ist eine Art einer genauen, sehr langen Katze. Sei ziehen sienen Schwanz in New York, und sein Kopf miaut in Los Angeles, verstehen Sie dieses? Und Radio operiert den gleichen Weg genau: Sie schicken hier Signale, sie emfangen sie dort. Der einzige Unterschied, dass es keine Katze gibt." Albert Einstein, wenn gefragt hat, Radio zu beschreiben.	"Sie sehen, Leitungsfernschreiber sind eine Art von sehr, sehr lange Katze. Sie ziehen sein Endstück in neuem York und sein Kopf meowing in Los Angeles. Verstehen Sie dieses? Und Radio lässt genau die gleiche Weise laufen: Sie senden Signale heir, sie emfangen sie dort. Der einzige Unterschied ist, dass es keine Katze gibt." Albert Einstein, wenn Sie gebeten werden, radio zu beschreiben.
Internet page UEFA.COM:				
Football Europe **Atletico clinch Franco moved** Club Atletico de Madrid have signed Argentinian goalkeeper Leo Franco from RCD Mallorca	Fussball Europa **Atletico besigelt den Wechsel von Franco** Der Verein Atletico de Madrid hat den argentinischen Torhueter Leo Franco vom RCD Mallorca unter Vertrag genommen	Das Fussballeuropa **Atletico bringen Bewegung von Franco zum Abschluss** Klub Atletico de Madrid hat argentinischen Torwart Leo Franco von RCD Mallorca unterzeichnet.	Not possible.	Fussball Europa **Vernietungfrancobewegung Atletico** De MadridVerein Atletico haben argentinischen goalkeeperloewen Franco von RCD Mallorca unterzeichnet.
Football Europe **Kutuzov strikes Sampodria deal** UC Sampodria have signed Belarussian international striker Vitali Kutuzov from AC Milan.	Fussball Europa **Kutuzov trifft Vereinbarung mit Sampodria** Der UC Sampodria hat den Internationalen weissrussischen Stuermer Vitali Kutuzov vom AC Milan unter Vertrag genommen.	Das Fussballeuropa **Kutuzov schlaegt Sampodria-Geschaeft** UC Sampodria haben Belarussian internationalen Strikenden Vitali Kutuzov vom AC Milan unterzeichnet.	Not possible.	Fussball Europa **SchlagSampodria Kutuzov Abkommen** UC Sampodria haben internationales Schlaggerät Vitali Kutuzov Belarussian von Wechselstrom Mailand unterzeichnet.

How to make a better translation for less money

Tips for better translation results

Sometimes a merest hint may be enough to improve translation quality. Try following tips in order to achieve better translation results:

- Translation text should be complete. For example, if some of the of the punctuation marks fail, make sure to type them in. If a phrase is broken apart by a line break, remove it because otherwise the program will "understand" each part of the phrase as a separate sentence.
- Avoid long phrases when composing your own text. Short sentences (subject, predicate, object) are easier to translate. Don't use complex sentences, ex.: "Fur die am 12. Januar in unseren festlich geschmückten Raumlichkeiten stattfindende Vereinsfeier laden wir Sie nebst Anhang herzlich ein". Instead try to express your idea in a more simple way: "Wir feiern am 12. Januar unsere Vereinsfeier. Wir laden Sie herzlich dazu ein. Unsere Raume sind festlich geschmückt. Sie können mit Begleitung kommen."
- Avoid colloquialisms and expressions with figurative meaning. For example, don't complain on "Blechlawinen", instead call them "Staus".
- Parts of a complex noun (ex., Kurzschlusshandlung) should be separated by a hyphen, in order to clarify the logical structure of the word (thus, Kurzschluss-handlung). Use of abbreviations may also result in translation errors. It might be a reasonable solution to use a full-length variant (not "z.B." but "zum Beispiel").
- Try not to use letters not occurring in the target language (write "ue", "oe", "ss" instead of "ü", "ö", "ß").

Free Internet "translators"

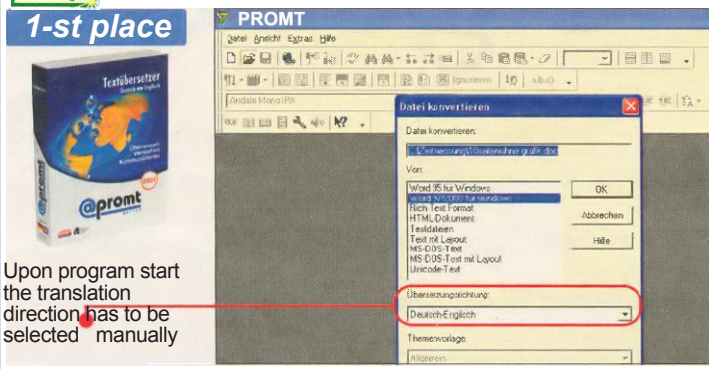
It is not necessary to buy a translation program. The user may have his/her texts translated at following internet addresses: ① and ②. This way you only have to pay for the internet connection. Operating so called "Language Tools" is very easy. Either type in an internet address or copy the text to be translated into the input window. You can review the translation made upon a mouse click and edit it in a text processing application (ex. such as Word).

Internet:

① http://www.google.de
② http://www.world.altavista.com

Jourist - @Promt Office 2004

1-st place



Upon program start the translation direction has to be selected manually

Both programs of the Jourist publishing house achieved best results in translation quality. Translations were almost identical, but one has to keep in mind the price difference of 69 Euro. The test winner has operation advantages. Thus, it offers user the functions which are lacking in “Progress” variant (7-th place). One may have translations printed and dictionary (containing at the moment almost 800000 entries) can be somewhat extended. However it takes as many as nine steps to perform this operation. Disadvantage: software was not able to determine source language automatically upon loading a file. Summary: really useful program which sometimes is a little bit difficult to operate with.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	not satisfactory	•Best translation result in the test field	•High price
Price:	99,00 euro	•User-own entries in the dictionary	•No automatic detection of the source language

Digital Publishing – Translate Plus

2-nd place

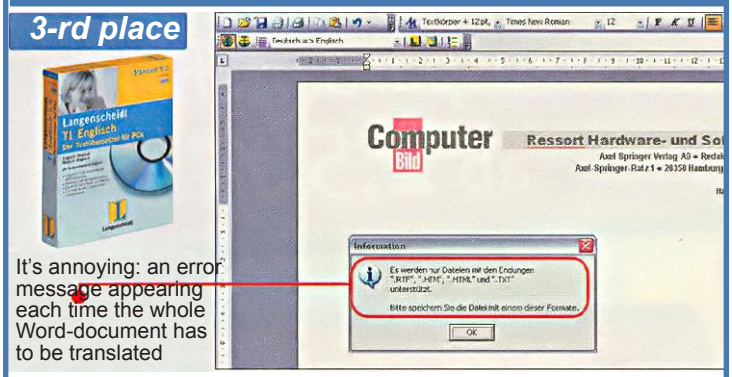
Just mark a word and push the button - all that’s needed to translate a word

If translation quality had not been the most important thing then “Translate Plus” would probably have been the prize winner. This program is easy-to-operate and possesses a wide variety of functions. But what’s the use of all these features if the quality leaves much to be desired. Why isn’t it possible to put together the advantages of our prize winner and good usability of “Translate Plus”? Merits: using this software one may create his/her own dictionaries (for example, proper nouns or technical terms). Standard dictionary can be extended and changed. And: “Click-&-Translate” function (see pic.) supports text translation in any of the Windows-applications using user defined “hot key” combination.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	insufficient	•Creation of user-own dictionaries	•Mostly poor quality
Price:	99,99 euro	•Useful additional functions	

Langescheidt – T1 Englisch Standard 5.0

3-rd place



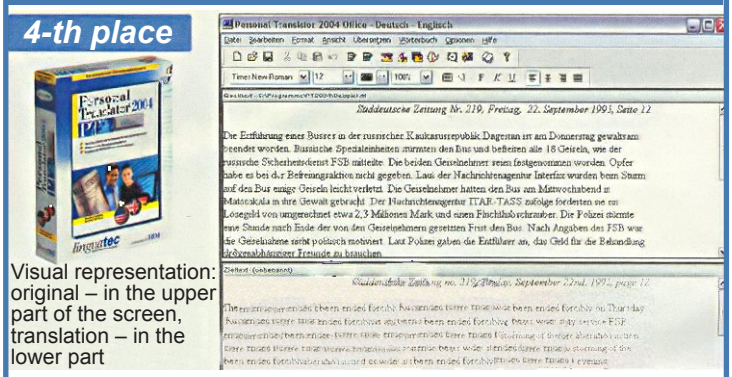
It’s annoying: an error message appearing each time the whole Word-document has to be translated

As far as the price concerns this program is beyond comparison – as much as 159 euro for a software package. But in this case the user at least can count on certain convenient options: easy integration into such desktop applications as Excel, Powerpoint and Outlook. Text translation may be performed directly in these programs. Problems are awaiting the user as he/she tries to work with Word: upon attempting to translate a whole document in doc format, the program generated an error message (see pic.). Much disappointing: translation quality could be ranked only as satisfactory, some fragments remained completely incomprehensible. The dictionary delivered complete with the software and containing (according to the manufacturer) 620 000 entries was not very helpful. Especially because changing of dictionary entries is not supported - only adding new entries is possible.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	insufficient	•Supports integration into other programs	•Changing dictionary entries is not supported
Price:	159,00 euro	•Text recognition application is included in the software package	•Export of dictionaries is not supported

Linguatec – Personal Translator 2004 Office

4-th place


Personal Translator 2004 Office – Deutsch – Englisch
Süddeutsche Zeitung Nr. 219, Freitag, 22. September 1995, Seite 12
linguatec

Visual representation: original – in the upper part of the screen, translation – in the lower part

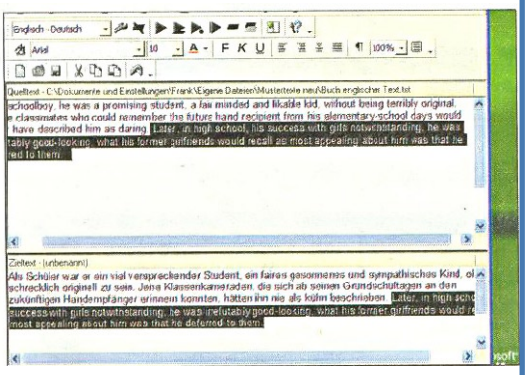
Translation functions and quality of the program are similar to those offered by a less expensive “Home” version (6-th place), but the “Office” version contains following additional features: “one-click-translator” enables translation using a hot key combination, no matter what program you are currently working with. Furthermore, it is possible to add entries to the “Personal Translator” dictionary and also to change the existing entries upon user’s request. Besides, program marks all words which have several translation variants. And: software can be integrated into Internet Explorer. This way the user can translate English web-pages upon a mouse-click while keeping the graphic appearance of a web-page intact.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	not sufficient	•Adding entries to the dictionary	•Translation quality in many cases only sufficient
Price:	159,00 euro		•High price

Digital Publishing – Translate

5-th place

Selected part of the sentence has just been translated.

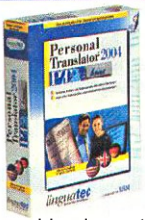


"Translate" provided exactly the same results as the "Plus" version (mark: "satisfactory"). The range of functions was also almost identical. The only difference: words with several translation variants were not marked in the target text. And the dictionary delivered complete with software package could not be extended or changed. Disadvantage: users regularly working with technical texts may find it annoying to enter translation of technical terms with no concordance in the dictionary manually each time the above mentioned terms occur in the text. This may happen quite often because the dictionary is comparatively small – 290 000 articles. Those who want to spare themselves such incredible efforts should stick to the test winners and agree to pay a double price.

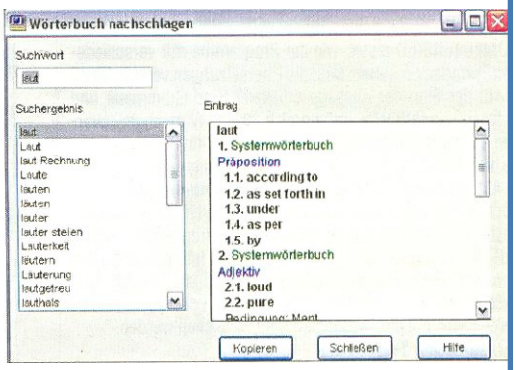
Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	satisfactory	•Integration with "Outlook 2003" possible	•Translation quality mostly only "satisfactory"
Price:	49,99 euro		•Dictionary entries cannot be changed

Linguatec – Personal Translator 2004 Home

6-th place



Searching is worth while – dictionary contains 490 000 entries.

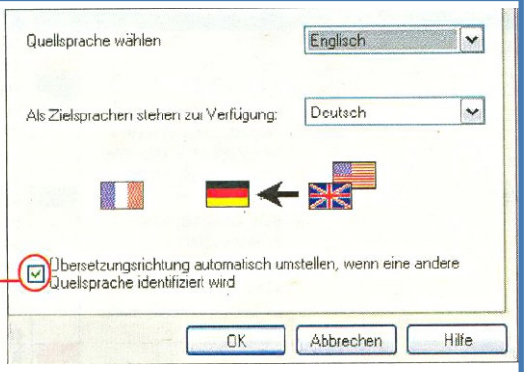


Translation from English into German with Linguatec programs provided only satisfactory results (no matter a book, a song, historic text or a web-page). As for the opposite direction (German-English) the results were not better. Some expressions could hardly be understood. Advantages: good software usability, automatic recognition of the source language, initial formatting (page 67)03 was retained in most of the cases. But: the dictionary doesn't support any kind of processing or extension. If you are looking for an application which can fill up this gap – go for a more expensive "older brother" ("Translator 2004 Office", 2-nd place). Unfortunately: this software cannot be integrated into any other software applications.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	satisfactory	•Retains initial text formatting	•Translation quality mostly only "satisfactory"
Price:	49,99 euro	•Useful additional functions	•Dictionary entries cannot be changed

Jourist – Promt Progress

7-th place



Check box saves a great deal of time: program can automatically determine the source language

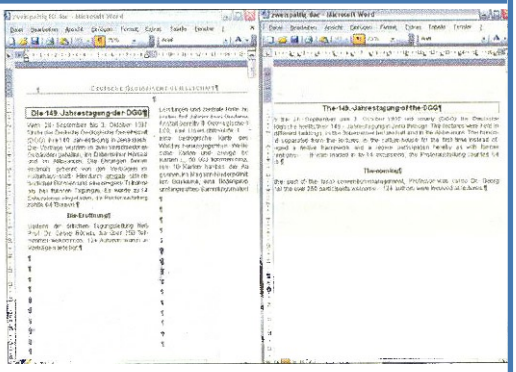
Unfortunately: "Promt Progress" offers almost the same (comparatively good) translation quality as the expensive "Office" version but doesn't show alternate variants of translation. This complicates the post processing (which turned out to be necessary for all programs in the test field). Disadvantage: translated texts cannot be printed directly out of the program. Furthermore the program can be integrated only in Acrobat Reader. In order to translate a Word-file one needs to have it loaded using "Promt" software. Another shortcoming: the dictionary (equipped with 700 000 entries) can not be extended. Those for whom these functions are not essential may purchase a fairly good "Translator" for a little bit less than 30 euro.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	good	•Comprehensive translation of German web-pages	•Dictionary entries cannot be changed
Price:	29,95 euro		•No automatic source language detection

Sybex – Euro-Übersetzer

8-th place

One column out of two: initial formatting is not preserved in a text with several columns



The most moderately priced program (19,95 euro) produces quite a decent impression in the category of translation quality. Upon translating a novel it has even left behind some of its competitors. But: "Euro-Übersetzer" can not read internet-pages directly. The user has to save the pages on a hard disk and then find them using the software. And: adding or changing dictionary entries is not supported. Other inconvenient features: no automatic source language recognition or distinction between British and American English. The program can not be integrated into other software applications. Summary: this solution might suit someone looking for the most inexpensive translation assistant.

Test result:	satisfactory	+	-
Price/Effectiveness:	good	•Comprehensive translation of certain texts	•Dictionary entries cannot be processed
Price:	19,95 euro	•Translation from French, Spanish and Italien	•No automatic source language detection

Detailed description of the test table

1. German-English text translation

How many steps does it take to make a translation? The fewer the better. Ideal situation is when the source language is detected automatically then one mouse click is enough to start translation

2. Translation functions

COMPUTERBILD tests how the program operates with different text types. Are translations comprehensible? Is the meaning of the phrase retained? Are grammar and sentence structure correct? How large and diverse is the vocabulary? Are rare words also handled correctly? Translations of the following text types were screened with particular attention:

- **Actual messages from a football web-page**

Information resources are notable for short sentences – a favorable condition for translation programs. COMPUTERBILD tested translation of www.uefa.com internet resource. This page is available in English as well as in German, so in many cases the translation results could be compared with the English version posted in Internet.

- **Historical texts**

Old texts with rarely used words and expressions should also be translated without problems. A passage from American Declaration of Independence, 1776 was chosen for the test purposes.

- **Songs (Peter Gabriel)**

How good are lyrics translated? We have chosen "Not one of us" by Peter Gabriel. This album was also published in German. So we could compare results with Gabriel's approved version.

- **Book fragment**

Novels are what translators earn their living with. COMPUTERBILD chose a passage from "Die vierte Hand" by John Irving as a test fragment.

3. Adding entries to the dictionary

Translation programs work with at least one dictionary. Is it possible to add user-own entries — proper names, technical terms, idiomatic expressions? Will they be considered upon next translation session? If not – is it necessary to type them in manually every time?

4. Export function for available dictionaries

COMPUTERBILD checked if dictionary could be read and saved on a CD-ROM (exported). Imagine, you have bought a new PC and installed your software. Does this mean that you have to type in all user-own dictionary entries anew?

5. Translation of formatted texts

Original document doesn't always consist of just plain text. Graphics, tables and column structure influence text layout. Will such text be translated? Will different formatting (various text types and sizes) effect the translation?

6. Retaining initial formatting

Text formatting (number of columns or location of images) should remain intact after the program is done translating. Is target text longer or shorter than original one? Does it cause problems in any of the programs?

7. VIntegration with other software (Outlook 2003/Word 2003/Acrobat Reader)

If you are planning to use the program mainly to translate your e-mails into German, than having to start your translation program and then copying your text in there would be a very time consuming solution. COMPUTERBILD checks if your "Translator" can be integrated into in an e-mail application such as Outlook 2003 (for example, as an additional button). The same test is applied for text processing programs such as Word 2003 and for the programs intended for viewing PDF-files (Acrobat Reader).

8. Price / effectiveness correlation

Evaluation of price/ effectiveness correlation is made on the basis of a formula "Test result multiplied by a market price". For example, if translation program has got a "3" mark and its price amounts to 20 euro, than its index value makes up 60.00 ("very good").

Up to 75,00	very good
75,01 to 125,00	good
125,01 to 175,00	satisfactory
175,01 to 225,00	sufficient
225,01 to 275,00	not satisfactory
over 275,01	insufficient

		1-st place		2-nd place	
Manufacturer Program		**Jourist @PromtOffice**	mark	**Digital Publishing Translate Plus**	mark
Requirements					
Processor/RAM (COMPUTERBILD recommendation); Space on hard disk	0,00	Pentium 300 and higher/ 128 Megabyte; 67 Megabyte		Pentium 300 and higher/ 128 Megabyte; 92 Megabyte	
Software environment (as stated by manufacturer)	0,00	Windows 98/ME/XP		Windows 98/ME/NT/XP	
Designed for beginners/ advanced users (COMPUTERBILD recommendation)	0,00	Advanced		Beginners	
Copy protection		Bad sectors		no	
Operation					
Installation	1,00	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50
Printed operating manual	2,00	Not very detailed	2,83	detailed	2,00
Service elements	2,00	Self-explaining	1,00	Self-explaining	1,00
Help	2,00	Very useful	1,00	Very useful	1,00
Use of basic functions (tester's opinion)	3,00	Somewhat excessive	3,00	simple	2,00
German-English translation (optimal: 1 step)	1,00	1 step	1,00	1 step	1,00
Printing translated text (optimal: 1 step)	1,00	4 step	2,50	4 step	2,50
Drag&Drop function	1,00	available	1,00	available	1,00
Dictionary extension (optimal: 4 steps)	2,00	9 steps	3,50	4 steps	1,00
Operation Total	**15,00%**	**Mark (intermediate)**		**Mark (intermediate)**	
Translation functions					
Alternate meanings for polysemantic words	3,00	yes	1,00	no	6,00
De-Eng web-page (uefa.com)	6,00	Understandable	2,30	Difficult to understand	3,66
De-Eng historical text (US Declaration of Independence)	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	3,44	Partially difficult to understand	3,41
De-Eng lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)	6,00	Difficult to understand	3,97	Difficult to understand	4,09
De-Eng extract from a book	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	2,91	Difficult to understand	3,77
Eng-De web-page (uefa.com)	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	3,15	Difficult to understand	3,75
Eng-De historical text (US Declaration of Independence)	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	2,70	Difficult to understand	3,60
Eng-De lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	3,35	Partially difficult to understand	2,56
Eng-De extract from a book	6,00	Partially difficult to understand	2,89	Partially difficult to understand	2,97
Translation functions Total	**51,00%**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**2,97**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,62**
Dictionary					
Number of entries (as stated by manufacturer)	0,00	796500		290000	
Free update via Internet from inside the program	1,00	No	6,00	yes	1,00
Adding entries to the dictionary	2,00	Possible	1,00	Possible	1,00
Processing of existing entries	2,00	Possible	1,00	Possible	1,00
Exporting existing dictionaries	2,00	Available	1,00	Available	1,00
Polysemantic words marked automatically	2,00	Yes	1,00	Yes	1,00
Spell check	2,00	Only for British/American English	4,00	no	6,00
Phonetic transcription (pronunciation assistance)	2,00	Only "pronouncing" function, poor quality	4,00	Not available	6,00
British/American English	1,00	Yes	1,00	Yes	1,00
Dictionary Total	**14,00%**		**2,21**		**2,43**
Other functions					
Direct translation of web-page content	2,00	possible	1,00	possible	1,00
Format in which text can be saved	2,00	Only RTF and TXT	3,50	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Following text formats can be imported into program	2,00	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Translation of formatted texts (format)	3,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00
Retaining original text formatting	3,00	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33
Automatic detection of source language and translation direction	1,00	No	6,00	Yes	1,00
Integration with other programs (Outlook 2003, Word 2003/Acrobat Reader)	3,00	Not possible/not possible/ possible	5,00	Possible/not possible/ not possible	4,00
Printing	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00
Other functions Total	**17,00%**		**2,68**		**2,06**
Service	**3,00**		**1,98**		
Information (telephone number) /max. telephone costs	3,00	040-21098290/0,122 euro/ min	1,98	06221-9056003/0,122 euro/ min	1,98
Information (web-page in German)	0,00	available	1,00	available	1,00
Service Total	**3,00**		**1,98**		**1,98**
Mark (intermediate)	**100%**		**2,67**		**2,84**
Plus			0,00	Direct translation of words from other programs possible	-0,05
Minus		Keyboard layout is rearranged upon changing language			0,00
Test result		**Satisfactory**	**2,77**	**Satisfactory**	**2,79**
Price/ effectiveness corellation		**Not satisfactory**		**insufficient**	
Average price according to the manufacturer		**99,00 euro**		**99,99 euro**	
Media-Markt price/ best offer found by COMPUTERBILD in this month		**No offers found**		**99,00 euro (Insercom, tel. 07000-46737266**	
Calculation of price/ effectiveness corellation (note x market price)		**2,77x99,00=274,23= not satisfactory**		**2,79x99,99=278,97= insufficient**	

		3-rd place		4-th place		5-th place	
Manufacturer **Program**		**Langescheidt** **T1 Englisch Standard 5.0**	mark	**Linguatec** **Personal Translator 2004 Office**	mark	**Digital Publishing** **Translate**	
Requirements							
Processor/RAM (COMPUTERBILD recommendation); Space on hard disk		Pentium 800 and higher/ 256 Megabyte; 127 Megabyte		Pentium 500 and higher/ 128 Megabyte; 43 Megabyte		Pentium 300 and higher/ 128Megabyte; 56 Megabyte	
Software environment (as stated by manufacturer)		Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP		Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP		Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP	
Designed for beginners/ advanced users (COMPUTERBILD recommendation)		Beginners		Beginners		Beginners	
Copy protection		Dummy files		Not available		Not available	
Operation							
Installation		No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50
Printed operating manual		Not very detailed	3,59	detailed	2,40	detailed	2,00
Service elements		With incomprehensible messages	1,83	Self-explaining	1,00	Self-explaining	1,00
Help		Not very detailed	3,50	Very useful	1,00	Very useful	1,00
Use of basic functions (tester's opinion)		Simple	2,00	simple	2,00	Simple	2,00
German-English translation (optimal: 1 step)		1 step	1,00	1 step	1,00	1 step	1,00
Printing translated text (optimal: 1 step)		3 step	2,00	3 steps	2,00	4 steps	2,50
Drag&Drop function		Not available	6,00	available	1,00	available	1,00
Dictionary extension (optimal: 4 steps)		6 steps	2,00	4 steps	1,00	Not possible	6,00
Operation	**Total**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**2,69**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**1,62**		**2,27**
Translation functions							
Alternate meanings for polysemantic words		yes	1,00	no	6,00	No	6,00
De-Eng web-page (uefa.com)		Partially difficult to understand	2,82	Partially difficult to understand	3,43	Difficult to understand	3,66
De-Eng historical text (US Declaration of Independence)		Difficult to understand	4,32	Partially difficult to understand	3,41	Partially difficult to understand	3,41
De-Eng lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)		Difficult to understand	4,26	Difficult to understand	4,09	Difficult to understand	4,09
De-Eng extract from a book		Partially difficult to understand	2,77	Difficult to understand	3,77	Difficult to understand	3,77
Eng-De web-page (uefa.com)		Partially difficult to understand	3,29	Difficult to understand	3,75	Difficult to understand	3,75
Eng-De historical text (US Declaration of Independence)		Partially difficult to understand	3,38	Partially difficult to understand	3,40	Difficult to understand	3,60
Eng-De lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)		Partially difficult to understand	3,41	Partially difficult to understand	2,65	Partially difficult to understand	2,56
Eng-De extract from a book		Partially difficult to understand	2,94	Partially difficult to understand	2,97	Partially difficult to understand	2,97
Translation functions	**Total**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,26**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,58**		**3,62**
Dictionary							
Number of entries (as stated by manufacturer)		620000		490000		290000	
Free update via Internet from inside the program		Manually from Internet page	3,00	no	6,00	yes	1,00
Adding entries to the dictionary		Possible	1,00	Possible	1,00	Not possible	6,00
Processing of existing entries		Not possible	6,00	Possible	1,00	Not possible	6,00
Exporting existing dictionaries		Not available	6,00	Available	1,00	Not available	6,00
Polysemantic words marked automatically		Yes	1,00	Yes	1,00	no	6,00
Spell check		No	6,00	no	6,00	no	6,00
Phonetic transcription (pronunciation assistance)		Not available	6,00	Not available	6,00	Not available	6,00
British/American English		Yes	1,00	Yes	1,00	yes	1,00
Dictionary	**Total**		**4,00**		**2,79**		**5,29**
Other functions							
Direct translation of web-page content		possible	1,00	possible	1,00	possible	1,00
Format in which text can be saved		HTML, RTF and TXT	2,25	Only RTF and TXT	3,50	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Following text formats can be imported into program		HTML, RTF and TXT	2,25	Only RTF and TXT	3,50	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Translation of formatted texts (format)		Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00
Retaining original text formatting		Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33
Automatic detection of source language and translation direction		No	6,00	Yes	1,00	yes	1,00
Integration with other programs (Outlook 2003, Word 2003/Acrobat Reader)		Possible/possible/ not possible	2,00	Not possible/not possible/not possible	6,00	Possible/not possible/ not possible	4,00
Printing		Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00
Other functions	**Total**		**2,00**		**2,71**		**2,06**
Service							
Information (telephone number) /max. telephone costs		01805-232357/0,120 euro pro min.	1,96	089-74299174/0,122 euro pro min.	1,98	06221-9056003/0,122 euro/min.	1,98
Information (web-page in German)		available	1,00	available	1,00	available	1,00
Service	**Total**		**1,96**		**1,98**		**1,98**
Mark (intermediate)			**3,02**		**2,98**		**3,34**
Plus		Program for scanned text recognition program provided complete with software package	-0,20	Direct translation of words from other programs is possible	-0,05		0,00
Minus			0,00		0,00		0,00
Test result		**Satisfactory**	**2,82**	**Satisfactory**	**2,93**	**sufficient**	**3,34**
Price/ effectiveness corellation		**Not satisfactory**		**insufficient**		**sufficient**	
Average price according to the manufacturer		**159,00 euro**		**99,00 euro**		**49,99 euro**	
Media-Markt price/ best offer found by COMPUTERBILD in this month		**159,00 euro (BtB, tel. 07541-970790)**		**99,00 euro (Insercom, tel. 0700-46737266)**		**49,99 euro/40,40 euro (Insercom, tel.: 0700-46737266)**	
Calculation of price/ effectiveness corellation (note x market price)		**2,82x159,00=448,38= insufficient**		**2,93x99,00=290,07= insufficient**		**3,34 x 49,99 = 167,00 = sufficient**	

		6-th place		7-th place		8-th place	
Manufacturer **Program**		**Linguatec** **Personal Translator 2004 Home**	mark	**Jourist** **Promt Progress**	mark	**Sybex** **Euro-Uebersetzer**	
Requirements							
Processor/RAM (COMPUTERBILD recommendation); Space on hard disk		Pentium 500 and higher/ 128 Megabyte; 43 Megabyte		Pentium 300 and higher/128Megabyte; 48 Megabyte		Pentium 300 and higher/ 128 Megabyte; 150 Megabyte	
Software environment (as stated by manufacturer)		Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/ XP		98/ME/2000/XP		95/98/ME /2000/XP	
Designed for beginners/ advanced users (COMPUTERBILD recommendation)		Beginners		Beginners		Beginners	
Copy protection		Not available		Not available		Not available	
Operation							
Installation		No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50	No problems, but blocking by user is not available	3,50
Printed operating manual		detailed	2,41	Not very detailed	4,34	Not very detailed	3,17
Service elements		Self-explaining	1,00	Self-explaining	1,00	Partially in English	4,00
Help		Very useful	1,00	Very useful	1,00	insufficient	3,50
Use of basic functions (tester's opinion)		Simple	2,00	Somewhat excessive	3,00	Simple	2,00
German-English translation (optimal: 1 step)		1 step	1,00	1 step	1,00	1 step	1,00
Printing translated text (optimal: 1 step)		3 steps	2,00	Not possible	6,00	2 steps	1,50
Drag&Drop function		available	1,00	available	1,00	Not available	6,00
Dictionary extension (optimal: 4 steps)		Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00
Operation **Total**		**Mark (intermediate)**	**2,29**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,01**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,42**
Translation functions							
Alternate meanings for polysemantic words		No	6,00	No	6,00	No	6,00
De-Eng web-page (uefa.com)		Partially difficult to understand	3,43	Understandable	2,38	Not possible	6,00
De-Eng historical text (US Declaration of Independence)		Partially difficult to understand	3,41	Partially difficult to understand	3,44	Partially difficult to understand	3,05
De-Eng lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)		Difficult to understand	4,09	Difficult to understand	3,97	Partially difficult to understand	3,29
De-Eng extract from a book		Difficult to understand	3,77	Partially difficult to understand	2,91	Understandable	2,19
Eng-De web-page (uefa.com)		Difficult to understand	3,75	Partially difficult to understand	3,15	Not possible	6,00
Eng-De historical text (US Declaration of Independence)		Partially difficult to understand	3,40	Partially difficult to understand	2,70	Partially difficult to understand	3,35
Eng-De lyrics (Peter Gabriel song)		Partially difficult to understand	2,65	Partially difficult to understand	3,35	Difficult to understand	3,93
Eng-De extract from a book		Partially difficult to understand	2,97	Partially difficult to understand	2,89	Understandable	2,48
Translation functions **Total**		**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,58**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,27**	**Mark (intermediate)**	**3,92**
Dictionary							
Number of entries (as stated by manufacturer)		490000		700000		190000	
Free update via Internet from inside the program		no	6,00	no	6,00	no	6,00
Adding entries to the dictionary		Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00
Processing of existing entries		Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00	Not possible	6,00
Exporting existing dictionaries		Not available	6,00	Not available	6,00	Not available	6,00
Polysemantic words marked automatically		No	6,00	no	6,00	no	6,00
Spell check		No	6,00	no	6,00	no	6,00
Phonetic transcription (pronunciation assistance)		Not available	6,00	Only speech reproductions function, low quality	4,00	Not available	6,00
British/American English		Yes	1,00	Yes	1,00	no	6,00
Dictionary **Total**			**5,64**		**5,36**		**5,00**
Other functions							
Direct translation of web-page content		possible	1,00	possible	1,00	possible	6,00
Format in which text can be saved		Only RTF and TXT	3,50	Only RTF and TXT	3,50	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Following text formats can be imported into program		Only RTF and TXT	3,50	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25	DOC, RTF and TXT	2,25
Translation of formatted texts (format)		Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00	Simple text, two-column text, pages with graphics, tables, texts with different font formatting, small font-size (8pt.)	1,00
Retaining original text formatting		Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text	2,33	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text, graphics, tables	4,00	Without errors: simple text, pages with graphics, tables and small font-sizes Minor errors: pages with different font formatting Initial formatting not retained: two-column text, graphics	3,17
Automatic detection of source language and translation direction		Yes	1,00	no	6,00	no	6,00
Integration with other programs (Outlook 2003, Word 2003/Acrobat Reader)		Not possible/not possible/not possible	6,00	Not possible/not possible/possible	5,00	Not possible/not possible/ not possible	6,00
Printing		Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00	Possible, text formatting is retained	1,00
Other functions **Total**			**2,71**		**2,97**		**3,44**
Service							
Information (telephone number) /max. telephone costs		089-74299174/0,122 euro/min.	1,98	040-21098290/0,122 euro/min.	1,98	02236-963437/0,122 euro/min.	1,98
Information (web-page in German)		available	1,00	available	1,00	not available	
Service **Total**			**1,98**		**1,98**		**1,98**
Mark (intermediate)			**3,48**		**3,43**		**4,00**
Plus			0,00		0,00		0,00
Minus			0,00	Keyboard layout is rearranged upon changing language	+0,10		0,00
Test result		**Sufficient**	**3,48**	**Satisfactory**	**3,53**	**Satisfactory**	**4,00**
Price/ effectiveness corellation		**Sufficient**		**good**		**good**	
Average price according to the manufacturer		**49,00 euro**		**29,95 euro**		**19,95 euro**	
Media-Markt price/ best offer found by COMPUTERBILD in this month		**49,99 euro/41,20 euro (Insercom, tel.: 0700-46737266)**		**No offers found**		**No offers found**	
Calculation of price/ effectiveness corellation (note x market price)		**3,48 x 49,00 = 170,52 = sufficient**		**3,53 x 29,95 = 105,72 = good**		**4,00 x 19,95 = 79,80 = good**	